

**Agenda Item #11**  
January 11, 2002

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Status Review of Implementation of Goals of Strategic Plan  
*(For Commission Consideration and Possible Action)*

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The Commission adopted its Strategic Plan in November 2001. Staff reviewed the Strategic Plan and noted the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Commission review and consideration.

The Commission should review the attached memo, and direct staff as to highest priority items with the understanding that no additional State funds are likely in FY 2002-2003. Commission direction will be used to prepare the work plan for FY 02-03. The work plan for next fiscal year will be reviewed at the May Commission meeting.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**Of the Delta Protection Commission**  
**Adopted November 16, 2000**

***NOTE: Text in Bold Italic describes status of implementation of the goal in 2001***

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the Commission is to guide the protection of the Delta's unique natural quality, cultural viability, economic vitality, and recreational opportunity through:

- protection, maintenance, and enhancement and restoration of the overall quality of the Delta environment including agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities;
- assurance of orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources; and
- improvement of flood protection to ensure an increased level of public health and safety.

**VISION STATEMENT:**

The vision of the Delta Protection Commission is a region in which the essential land uses and unique natural qualities flourish in self-sustaining harmony.

**AGENCY GOALS:**

- Develop techniques to promote balance between the three Delta land uses:

*Step 1: Develop an inventory of existing Delta land uses, and changes in land use since January 1, 1993, including acquisition of land for future land use changes.*

***No work on this item--the inventory of land uses would be developed as part of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust. Delta Protection Commission's geographic information system data base is being updated for 2001 acquisitions.***

*Step 2: Prepare a composite map of existing and proposed land uses in the Primary Zone with information from the five Delta Counties and evaluate consistency with the vision of the Delta Protection Commission.*

***No work on this item--the inventory of land uses would be developed as part of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.***

*Step 3: Monitor pending projects and prepare monthly memo for Commission and general public to document proposed changes to land use.*

***Ongoing; updated monthly.***

*Step 4: Develop guidelines and tools for ensuring that balance between land uses in the Delta is maintained. Balance means that lands can be used for multiple uses, and that changes in use on one parcel do not adversely affect uses on adjacent or nearby parcels. Balance means that the goals of the Delta Protection Act are carried out in land use decisions in the Primary Zone.*

***No work on this item--guidelines and tools for ensuring balance would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.***

*Step 5: Amend the Commission's Plan to include new guidelines and tools and ensure that the local governments incorporate them into their General Plans.*

***No work on this item--guidelines and tools for ensuring balance would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.***

- Facilitating solutions:

*Step 1: Meet with the Planning Director of each local government at least once a year to discuss matters of mutual interest, such as upcoming changes in land uses, proposed amendments to the General Plan or zoning code, trends in land use, trends in acquisition, and proposed projects in Primary Zone or that would affect Primary Zone.*

***Staff met with all five County planning departments.***

*Step 2: Brief staff of local government planning departments to ensure local government staff understands the responsibilities of the Delta Protection Commission.*

***No new requests; will send letter offering to meet with local government planning staffs.***

*Step 3: Meet and consult with State and federal agencies with properties and/or responsibilities within and adjacent to the Primary Zone of the Delta to ensure common understanding of the Commission's vision for the region.*

***No new requests; meet regularly with State and federal agencies as part of CALFED.***

*Step 4: Comment on proposed State and federal projects circulated through the State Clearinghouse to ensure that those Agencies understand the Commission's Land Use Plan and its policies.*

***Ongoing; comment through the pending projects review and monitoring process.***

*Step 5: Promote the Commission's vision in State and federal planning programs to help shape the future land uses in the Primary Zone of the Delta and ensure harmony and consistency with the Commission's future vision.*

***Regularly promote the Commission's vision of the Delta in the CALFED process.***

- Development of a strategy for addressing external influences.

*Step 1: Form a Legislative Subcommittee to monitor proposed legislation and budget proposals to ensure consistency with the Commission's Mission and Vision.*

***Legislative Committee created last year; Commission took positions on four bills.***

*Step 2: Comment on proposed CALFED funding program in the Delta area to ensure consistency with the Commission's Mission, Vision, and Plan.*

***Commented on CALFED funding of projects in the Delta area.***

*Step 3: Coordinate with federal, State, local, and non-profit programs to develop priorities for acquisition of agricultural easements in the Primary Zone.*

***Participated in agriculture mitigation discussions held as part of the CALFED program; Commission commented on Delta Implementation Plan requesting mitigation for loss of agricultural land. Priorities for acquisition of agricultural easements would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by AFT.***

*Step 4: Identify and develop solutions for Delta land use conflicts that need to be resolved prior to implementation of CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.*

***No work on this item--solutions for land use conflicts would be developed after completion of the agriculture study to be undertaken by American Farmland Trust.***

*Plan 5: Develop regional goals and tools evaluating development of recreation facilities and uses in the Delta.*

***Commission funded preparation of work plan for Delta Recreation Master Plan; staff revising work plan to address budget shortfall.***

*Plan 6: Coordinate with Reclamation Districts and the Reclamation Board to ensure that new development outside the Delta does not adversely impact the ability of Delta levees to provide appropriate levels of flood protection.*

***Monitoring and commenting on development projects through the pending projects process.***

- Enhance public information on Commission positions and actions and increase outreach.

*Step 1: Provide information about the on-going land use actions and decisions in the Primary Zone of the Delta to the citizens and landowners of the Primary Zone of the Delta to ensure understanding of policy decisions being considered in the region, and to allow the citizens and landowners access to the relevant local government decision-makers.*

***Ongoing through preparation and distribution of the pending projects memo and through various stakeholder meetings. The pending projects memo is available on the website.***

*Step 2: Attend local meetings to describe the Commission's mission and vision for the Primary Zone of the Delta, and educate the citizens and landowners about the appeal authority of the Commission.*

***Attended a few local meetings on projects that would be precedent setting.***

*Step 3: Carry forward comments and ideas from citizens and landowners of the Primary Zone of the Delta to regional, State and federal planning processes to ensure those views are part of a larger decision-making process.*

***Ongoing through participation in the CALFED process.***

*Step 4: Prepare and circulate press releases regarding Commission actions and positions taken on key issues, policies and programs.*

***No action on this item.***

*Step 5: Prepare and circulate annual report to Governor, Legislature, and general public.*

***Ongoing requirement of Delta Protection Act of 1992.***

*Step 6: Provide information on the Commission's web site for access by the general public.*

***Ongoing; all meeting notices, minutes and staff reports are posted on website.***

- Develop more defined standards and policies, and use them in project evaluation.

*Step 1: Process the policies in the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta as regulations to ensure that those policies have the effect of law in the appellate process designated to the Commission.*

***Task completed; regulations approved in 2001.***

*Step 2: In collaboration with Reclamation Districts, the Department of Water Resources, and CALFED Levee Program, prepare a report on the status of Delta levees, and any identified priority needs for levee maintenance or upgrades.*

***No action on this item.***

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